(c) if so, the reasons for delay in appointing a full Board of Directors in NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There are six functional Directors in the Board of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). Only one post that of Director (Production) is vacant *w.e.f.* 1.9.2002.

Exploration of Mineral Deposits in Rajasthan

†722. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey is being conducted to explore the availability of mineral deposits like gold, silver and diamond in some parts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where this survey is being conducted by Government apart from Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Survey for gold and silver are being conducted by Geological Survey of India (GSI). As per the information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) no exploration for diamond was carried out recently in the State of Rajasthan.

(b) GSI has taken up 15 investigations in the State of Rajasthan from 2001-02 to 2004-05. Currently for the field season 2004-05 three investigations for gold are being carried out in Khankriya-Gara Block, Pathara Block and Delwara West Block in Banswara District.

During the field season 2003-04 investigation for silver has been carried out by GSI in Rajpura-Dariba Bethumbi and Jashma-Bhupalsagar-Bhinder Belts, Rajasmand district, Rajasthan.

(c) The survey for gold and diamond was carried out by GSI, Directorates of Geology and Mining (DGMs) and Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML) in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattishgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.